

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Advisory Board

Informational Meeting (Quorum not present)

October 20, 2004

6:15 p.m.

Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center Auditorium

Draft MINUTES

Mark Reshkin opened the meeting at 6:21 and welcomed all who attended. After introductions, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: Henry Bliss (Porter Co. Citizen), Dorreen Carey (City of Gary), Edgar Corns (Agriculture), Paul Labus (Local Land Trusts), Charlotte Read (Environment), Dr. Mark Reshkin (Universities), Liz McCloskey (USFWS), Bill Moran (NRCS), Tim Morgan (Local Parks and Recreation), Tammy Steinhagen (Citizen), Katie Rizer (Tourism), Malini Goel (IDEM), John Heidbreder (Historical Resources), Dale Engquist (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), David Pilz (City of Valparaiso), Karen Rodriguez (EPA)

Board members absent: Rudolph Clay (Lake County Commissioner), John Evans (Porter County Commissioner), Tom Keilman (Industry and Business), Niles Parker (IDOC), Jim Juricic (INDOT), J. Allen Johnson (Lake County Citizen), John Smolar (Lake Dependent Uses), Don Wadleigh (USACOE), Brian Miller (Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant), Stephen Mosher (Port of Indiana), William Hager (LaPorte County Commissioner), Kevin Breitzke (NIRPC), Jack Hires (Lake Michigan Aquatic Resources), Janet Kostielney (Michigan City),

Other interested parties present: Doug Bley, Christine Owens, Roger Nanney, Daniel Goldfarb, Sue Davis, Steve Davis, Denarie Kane

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Staff present: Mike Molnar (LMCP Program Manager), Jenny Kintzele (LMCP Program Specialist), Katy Smith (LMCP Project Coordinator)

Old Business

Coastal Areas of Significance

Molnar provided an update on the Coastal Areas of Significance process. Provided overview of the six categories of Areas of Particular Concern. Board members discussed the criteria used for designating categories. The Chair opened the discussion to the public in attendance. Molnar clarified that the areas identified as APC are not necessarily the same areas as the Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes Area.

New Business

Program Updates

The LMCP has submitted a request to hire a Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator to the state review process. The program is looking to fill this position, if approved, by the end of the year.

Molnar provided a recap of Coast Week activities. This is the third year that the program has sponsored coast week in Indiana. There was a good slate of activities proposed. Some received more attendance than others. For next year the program is looking at rescheduling some events so as to avoid conflicts. The workgroup will be convening in late January or early February to begin planning for next year.

Section 309 Needs Assessment and Review. Molnar provided some background on this program component. The Section 309 process allows the state to conduct a voluntary review of its efforts grouped into nine specific enhancement areas. This review identifies strengths and weaknesses of current program structure and efforts. The assessment process involves reviewing actions taken since program approval and identifying gaps in the program. The strategy component involves the creation and prioritizing of projects that address gaps. The program is eligible to compete for additional no-match funding from NOAA to implement enhancements.

Statewide Restoration Priorities. The IDNR in conjunction with IDEM meet on several occasions to discuss Great Lakes management issues and associated restoration needs. The results of these meetings are being compiled and will be used as supporting information for the Federal Great Lakes Restoration Task Force process.

Great Lakes Commission/SOLEC. Molnar provided some information regarding the recent Great Lakes Commission meeting and the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference. The State of Lake Michigan is listed as Mixed based upon the metrics recorded. Molnar provided a brief document that summarized the assessment of Lake Michigan.

Grant Program. Program Specialist Kintzele provided a brief update of projects funded to date. Kintzele provided an update on a project proposal submitted by Michigan City for a green way acquisition; the city decided to cancel the project due to modification of the project site by the owner. There was some discussion regarding acquisition projects.

Project Coordinator Smith provided an update on projects funded through the Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grant program. The City of Valparaiso is near or at completion with two projects, Stimpson Drain BMP and Porter County Jail Stormwater Alternative. The City of Gary is near completion with the Gary Greenlink project.

Kintzele introduced the 2005 grant program refinements. The application and guidance is revised. Project types are more refined and each has specific scoring criteria. Kintzele discussed the changes to the application guidance and asked members for suggested revisions.

Staff and Board members discussed the issue of Board involvement in the project selection process. Some Board members voiced a desire to have a larger input into the project selection process. Staff stated that they were working to increase the role of the Board and had brought the idea of having Board members serve on a project interview team. The team would be comprised of both LMCP staff and Board members. There was

not any apparent Board support for the concept in previous discussions or communication. Thus, this will not be in place in time for the 2005 grant cycle.

The LMCP staff will review the selection process and look for ways that the Board can be more involved. However, the Program Document and supporting documents states that the final project selection shall be conducted by the Director of the IDNR. Staff reminded Board members that projects meeting the priority issues identified by the Board receive extra points and consideration in the review process. The difference is enough to eliminate projects from consideration. For the 2005 funding year the total point total possible is 40 points. Projects that meet a priority issue will receive 15 points bonus.

LMCP staff introduced the grant priority setting exercise. It was recommended that Board members select three priority issues total, rather than three per category for a total of nine like last year. Limiting the number of priorities assures that only a few projects receive the extra points, thus increasing the relative value of meeting a priority. In addition, the Board proposed having a consensus vote on projects.

Board members discussed the nuances of the scoring criteria. Some suggestions were made regarding the various categories.

Board and staff discussed priority rankings for issues. No consensus was reached and it was agreed that staff would circulate an email survey for the top three ranked issues. This was discussed as an informational item due to the lack of quorum to vote.

Next Meeting
Meeting Date

January 19, 2005 in LaPorte County. A notice with the meeting location will be issued once a location is confirmed.

Agenda Items
Grant Proposals

Announcements

Public Comments
None

Adjournment
Dr. Reshkin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM